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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/804,533

Applicant(s)

KIM ET AL.

Examiner

USMAN KHAN

Art Unit

2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 December 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/5508)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed on 12/27/2008 with respect to claims 1 - 17 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicant's arguments filed on 12/27/2008 with respect to claims 18 - 22 have been considered but are not persuasive.

Please refer to the following office action, which clearly sets forth the reasons for non-persuasiveness.

Regarding **claims 18 - 22**, Applicant argues that the claim distinguish over Pavley by arguing that independent claims 18 and 20 have been amended to more distinctly recite a concealment button that has a dedicated concealment function assigned thereto (i.e., not a soft-key or button known in the art). The Applicants have studied Pavley and the remaining cited art of record and cannot find any teaching, disclosure or suggestion of a concealment button that has a dedicated concealment function assigned thereto. Furthermore, the Applicants are not aware of any commercially available or previously available camera with such a concealment button. To this end, the Applicants submit that claims 18-22 are allowable.

However, the examiner notes that there is no mention of a concealment button that has a dedicated concealment function in the original application as filed, even if the specification were to teach a concealment button that has a dedicated concealment function the examiner notes after the soft-key of Pavley has been set to the function of a concealment button it is considered a dedicated concealment button from then on.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1 - 3, 5 - 6, 8 - 12, and 14 - 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamasaki et al. (US PgPub 2003/0011683).

Regarding **claim 1**, Yamasaki et al. teaches a method of concealing image information in a digital camera (paragraph 0067 "protect" and "lock" means adding a display prohibition flag to image data and thumbnail image data for prohibiting display, copying, and moving of image data and thumbnail image data from the digital camera 10 to an external device, or for enabling only a specific individual user who uses the digital camera 10 to view the display of the image data and thumbnail image data using a password system or the like) comprising:

determining whether to conceal image information acquired during photographing of an image using the digital camera (paragraph 0067 "protect" and "lock" means adding a display prohibition flag to image data and thumbnail image data for prohibiting display, copying, and moving of image data and thumbnail image data from the digital camera 10 to an external device, or for enabling only a specific individual user who uses

the digital camera 10 to view the display of the image data and thumbnail image data using a password system or the like);

assigning a password to an image to be concealed (paragraph 0067 "protect" and "lock" means adding a display prohibition flag to image data and thumbnail image data for prohibiting display, copying, and moving of image data and thumbnail image data from the digital camera 10 to an external device, or for enabling only a specific individual user who uses the digital camera 10 to view the display of the image data and thumbnail image data using a password system or the like);

setting concealment to the image to be concealed (paragraph 0067 "protect" and "lock" means adding a display prohibition flag to image data and thumbnail image data for prohibiting display, copying, and moving of image data and thumbnail image data from the digital camera 10 to an external device, or for enabling only a specific individual user who uses the digital camera 10 to view the display of the image data and thumbnail image data using a password system or the like);

photographing an image (Abstract and paragraphs 0011, 0023, and 0063 *et seq.*; capturing images); digitizing the photographed image (Abstract and paragraphs 0011, 0023, 0052 *et seq.*, and 0063 *et seq.*; digital camera);

assigning the digitized image a file name that is different from a file name standard which defines a current image storage folder (figure 7 and paragraph 0069 and paragraph 0083 *et seq.*), the file name being associated with the password (it is inherent that when the file is stored in the folder "protect" and "lock" means adding a display prohibition flag to image data and thumbnail image data for prohibiting display,

copying, and moving of image data and thumbnail image data from the digital camera 10 to an external device, or for enabling only a specific individual user who uses the digital camera 10 to view the display of the image data and thumbnail image data using a password system or the like the file name is associated with the password);

storing the digitized image to the current image storage folder (figures 8 - 12 and 17 - 24; also, paragraphs 0064 – 0066 and 0067 *et seq.*);

and not displaying the image set to be concealed when displaying images stored in the current image folder when the camera is in an image reproduction mode (paragraph 0067 "protect" and "lock" means adding a display prohibition flag to image data and thumbnail image data for prohibiting display, copying, and moving of image data and thumbnail image data from the digital camera 10 to an external device, or for enabling only a specific individual user who uses the digital camera 10 to view the display of the image data and thumbnail image data using a password system or the like).

(Note: the method claim does not clearly outline the sequential steps (i.e. first step, second step, etc.) comprised therefor the examiner can take the comprised limitations in any order).

Regarding **claim 2**, as mentioned above in the discussion of claim 1, Yamasaki et al. teaches all of the limitations of the parent claim. Additionally, Yamasaki et al. further teaches if image concealment is not set before an image is photographed, determining whether to conceal the image, the determination occurring while the image

is displayed in the reproduction mode after photographing (paragraph 0067 "protect" and "lock" means adding a display prohibition flag to image data and thumbnail image data for prohibiting display, copying, and moving of image data and thumbnail image data from the digital camera 10 to an external device, or for enabling only a specific individual user who uses the digital camera 10 to view the display of the image data and thumbnail image data using a password system or the like also figures 8 - 12 and 17 - 24); setting concealment to the image set to be concealed (paragraph 0067 "protect" and "lock" means adding a display prohibition flag to image data and thumbnail image data for prohibiting display, copying, and moving of image data and thumbnail image data from the digital camera 10 to an external device, or for enabling only a specific individual user who uses the digital camera 10 to view the display of the image data and thumbnail image data using a password system or the like); assigning a password to the image set to be concealed (paragraph 0067 "protect" and "lock" means adding a display prohibition flag to image data and thumbnail image data for prohibiting display, copying, and moving of image data and thumbnail image data from the digital camera 10 to an external device, or for enabling only a specific individual user who uses the digital camera 10 to view the display of the image data and thumbnail image data using a password system or the like); associating the password with a new file name for the image set to be concealed (it is inherent that when the file is stored in the folder "protect" and "lock" means adding a display prohibition flag to image data and thumbnail image data for prohibiting display, copying, and moving of image data and thumbnail image data from the digital camera 10 to an external device, or for enabling only a

specific individual user who uses the digital camera 10 to view the display of the image data and thumbnail image data using a password system or the like the file name is associated with the password); re-storing the image set to be concealed with the new file name (figures 8 - 12 and 17 - 24; also, paragraphs 0064 – 0066 and 0067 *et seq.* also it is inherent that when the file is stored in the folder "protect" and "lock" means adding a display prohibition flag to image data and thumbnail image data for prohibiting display, copying, and moving of image data and thumbnail image data from the digital camera 10 to an external device, or for enabling only a specific individual user who uses the digital camera 10 to view the display of the image data and thumbnail image data using a password system or the like the file name is associated with the password), the image set to be concealed being re-stored in the current image storage folder (figures 8 - 12 and 17 - 24; also, paragraphs 0064 – 0066 and 0067 *et seq.* also it is inherent that when the file is stored in the folder "protect" and "lock" means adding a display prohibition flag to image data and thumbnail image data for prohibiting display, copying, and moving of image data and thumbnail image data from the digital camera 10 to an external device, or for enabling only a specific individual user who uses the digital camera 10 to view the display of the image data and thumbnail image data using a password system or the like the file name is associated with the password); and not displaying the image set to be concealed (paragraph 0067 "protect" and "lock" means adding a display prohibition flag to image data and thumbnail image data for prohibiting display, copying, and moving of image data and thumbnail image data from the digital camera 10 to an external device, or for enabling only a specific individual user who uses

the digital camera 10 to view the display of the image data and thumbnail image data using a password system or the like).

Regarding **claim 3**, as mentioned above in the discussion of claim 2, Yamasaki et al. teaches all of the limitations of the parent claim. Additionally, Yamasaki et al. further teaches determining if an option for displaying information on the image set to be concealed has been selected (paragraphs 0145, 0168, and 0188); allowing a password to be input; and if the assigned password matches the input password, displaying the image set to be concealed that is associated with the input password (paragraph 0067 "protect" and "lock" means adding a display prohibition flag to image data and thumbnail image data for prohibiting display, copying, and moving of image data and thumbnail image data from the digital camera 10 to an external device, or for enabling only a specific individual user who uses the digital camera 10 to view the display of the image data and thumbnail image data using a password system or the like).

Regarding **claim 5**, as mentioned above in the discussion of claim 1, Yamasaki et al. teaches all of the limitations of the parent claim. Additionally, Yamasaki et al. further teaches determining if an option for displaying information on the image set to be concealed has been selected (paragraphs 0145, 0168, and 0188); allowing a password to be input; and if the assigned password matches the input password, displaying the image set to be concealed that is associated with the input password (paragraph 0067 "protect" and "lock" means adding a display prohibition flag to image data and thumbnail

image data for prohibiting display, copying, and moving of image data and thumbnail image data from the digital camera 10 to an external device, or for enabling only a specific individual user who uses the digital camera 10 to view the display of the image data and thumbnail image data using a password system or the like).

Regarding **claim 6**, as mentioned above in the discussion of claim 5, Yamasaki et al. teaches all of the limitations of the parent claim. Additionally, Yamasaki et al. further teaches that the option for displaying information on the image set to be concealed is selected by selecting a concealed-image-view menu item (figures 8 - 13 and 17 - 24; also, (paragraph 0067 "protect" and "lock" means adding a display prohibition flag to image data and thumbnail image data for prohibiting display, copying, and moving of image data and thumbnail image data from the digital camera 10 to an external device, or for enabling only a specific individual user who uses the digital camera 10 to view the display of the image data and thumbnail image data using a password system or the like).

Regarding **claim 8**, as mentioned above in the discussion of claim 1, Yamasaki et al. teaches all of the limitations of the parent claim. Additionally, Yamasaki et al. further teaches that the digitized image is stored on a memory card (paragraph 0015 and 0056; removable medium).

Regarding **claim 9**, as mentioned above in the discussion of claim 1, Yamasaki et al. teaches all of the limitations of the parent claim. Additionally, Yamasaki et al. further teaches determining whether the camera is in an image reproduction mode (Abstract and paragraph 0011 *et seq.*).

Regarding **claim 10**, as mentioned above in the discussion of claim 9, Yamasaki et al. teaches all of the limitations of the parent claim. Additionally, Yamasaki et al. further teaches if the camera is not in an image reproduction mode (figure 8 image capturing mode), repeating the steps of determining whether to conceal image information acquired during photographing of an image using the digital camera (paragraph 0067 "protect" and "lock" means adding a display prohibition flag to image data and thumbnail image data for prohibiting display, copying, and moving of image data and thumbnail image data from the digital camera 10 to an external device, or for enabling only a specific individual user who uses the digital camera 10 to view the display of the image data and thumbnail image data using a password system or the like); assigning a password to an image to be concealed; setting concealment to the image to be concealed (paragraph 0067 "protect" and "lock" means adding a display prohibition flag to image data and thumbnail image data for prohibiting display, copying, and moving of image data and thumbnail image data from the digital camera 10 to an external device, or for enabling only a specific individual user who uses the digital camera 10 to view the display of the image data and thumbnail image data using a password system or the like); photographing an image (Abstract and paragraphs 0011,

0023, and 0063 *et seq.*; capturing images); digitizing the photographed image (Abstract and paragraphs 0011, 0023, 0052 *et seq.*, and 0063 *et seq.*; digital camera); assigning the digitized image a file name that is different from a file name standard which defines a current image storage folder (figure 7 and paragraph 0069 and paragraph 0083 *et seq.*), the file name being associated with the password (it is inherent that when the file is stored in the folder "protect" and "lock" means adding a display prohibition flag to image data and thumbnail image data for prohibiting display, copying, and moving of image data and thumbnail image data from the digital camera 10 to an external device, or for enabling only a specific individual user who uses the digital camera 10 to view the display of the image data and thumbnail image data using a password system or the like the file name is associated with the password); and storing the digitized image to the current image storage folder (figures 8 - 12 and 17 - 24; also, paragraphs 0064 - 0066 and 0067 *et seq.*).

Regarding **claim 11**, Yamasaki et al. teaches a method of concealing image information in a digital camera (paragraph 0067 "protect" and "lock" means adding a display prohibition flag to image data and thumbnail image data for prohibiting display, copying, and moving of image data and thumbnail image data from the digital camera 10 to an external device, or for enabling only a specific individual user who uses the digital camera 10 to view the display of the image data and thumbnail image data using a password system or the like) comprising:

assigning a password for setting image information concealment of the digital camera (paragraph 0067 "protect" and "lock" means adding a display prohibition flag to image data and thumbnail image data for prohibiting display, copying, and moving of image data and thumbnail image data from the digital camera 10 to an external device, or for enabling only a specific individual user who uses the digital camera 10 to view the display of the image data and thumbnail image data using a password system or the like);

determining whether to conceal image information acquired during photographing of an image using the digital camera (paragraph 0067 "protect" and "lock" means adding a display prohibition flag to image data and thumbnail image data for prohibiting display, copying, and moving of image data and thumbnail image data from the digital camera 10 to an external device, or for enabling only a specific individual user who uses the digital camera 10 to view the display of the image data and thumbnail image data using a password system or the like);

setting concealment of an image to be photographed (paragraph 0067 "protect" and "lock" means adding a display prohibition flag to image data and thumbnail image data for prohibiting display, copying, and moving of image data and thumbnail image data from the digital camera 10 to an external device, or for enabling only a specific individual user who uses the digital camera 10 to view the display of the image data and thumbnail image data using a password system or the like) using a concealment file name that is different from a file name standard which defines a current image storage folder (figure 7 and paragraph 0069 and paragraph 0083 *et seq.*), the concealment file

name being associated with the password (it is inherent that when the file is stored in the folder "protect" and "lock" means adding a display prohibition flag to image data and thumbnail image data for prohibiting display, copying, and moving of image data and thumbnail image data from the digital camera 10 to an external device, or for enabling only a specific individual user who uses the digital camera 10 to view the display of the image data and thumbnail image data using a password system or the like the file name is associated with the password);

photographing an image (Abstract and paragraphs 0011, 0023, and 0063 *et seq.*; capturing images); digitizing the photographed image (Abstract and paragraphs 0011, 0023, 0052 *et seq.*, and 0063 *et seq.*; digital camera);

storing the digitized image with the concealment file name to the current image storage folder (figures 8 - 12 and 17 - 24; also, paragraphs 0064 – 0066 and 0067 *et seq.*);

and not displaying the image with the concealment file name when the camera is in a reproduction mode (paragraph 0067 "protect" and "lock" means adding a display prohibition flag to image data and thumbnail image data for prohibiting display, copying, and moving of image data and thumbnail image data from the digital camera 10 to an external device, or for enabling only a specific individual user who uses the digital camera 10 to view the display of the image data and thumbnail image data using a password system or the like).

(Note: the method claim does not clearly outline the sequential steps (i.e. first step, second step, etc.) comprised therefor the examiner can take the comprised limitations in any order).

Regarding **claim 12**, as mentioned above in the discussion of claim 11, Yamasaki et al. teaches all of the limitations of the parent claim. Additionally, Yamasaki et al. further teaches if image concealment is not set before an image is photographed, determining whether to conceal the image, the determination occurring while the image is displayed in the reproduction mode after photographing (paragraph 0067 "protect" and "lock" means adding a display prohibition flag to image data and thumbnail image data for prohibiting display, copying, and moving of image data and thumbnail image data from the digital camera 10 to an external device, or for enabling only a specific individual user who uses the digital camera 10 to view the display of the image data and thumbnail image data using a password system or the like also figures 8 - 12 and 17 - 24); setting concealment to the image set to be concealed (paragraph 0067 "protect" and "lock" means adding a display prohibition flag to image data and thumbnail image data for prohibiting display, copying, and moving of image data and thumbnail image data from the digital camera 10 to an external device, or for enabling only a specific individual user who uses the digital camera 10 to view the display of the image data and thumbnail image data using a password system or the like); assigning a password to the image set to be concealed (paragraph 0067 "protect" and "lock" means adding a display prohibition flag to image data and thumbnail image data for prohibiting display, copying,

and moving of image data and thumbnail image data from the digital camera 10 to an external device, or for enabling only a specific individual user who uses the digital camera 10 to view the display of the image data and thumbnail image data using a password system or the like); associating the password with a new file name for the image set to be concealed (it is inherent that when the file is stored in the folder "protect" and "lock" means adding a display prohibition flag to image data and thumbnail image data for prohibiting display, copying, and moving of image data and thumbnail image data from the digital camera 10 to an external device, or for enabling only a specific individual user who uses the digital camera 10 to view the display of the image data and thumbnail image data using a password system or the like the file name is associated with the password); re-storing the image set to be concealed with the new file name (figures 8 - 12 and 17 - 24; also, paragraphs 0064 – 0066 and 0067 *et seq.* also it is inherent that when the file is stored in the folder "protect" and "lock" means adding a display prohibition flag to image data and thumbnail image data for prohibiting display, copying, and moving of image data and thumbnail image data from the digital camera 10 to an external device, or for enabling only a specific individual user who uses the digital camera 10 to view the display of the image data and thumbnail image data using a password system or the like the file name is associated with the password), the image set to be concealed being re-stored in the current image storage folder (figures 8 - 12 and 17 - 24; also, paragraphs 0064 – 0066 and 0067 *et seq.* also it is inherent that when the file is stored in the folder "protect" and "lock" means adding a display prohibition flag to image data and thumbnail image data for prohibiting display, copying,

and moving of image data and thumbnail image data from the digital camera 10 to an external device, or for enabling only a specific individual user who uses the digital camera 10 to view the display of the image data and thumbnail image data using a password system or the like the file name is associated with the password); and not displaying the image set to be concealed (paragraph 0067 "protect" and "lock" means adding a display prohibition flag to image data and thumbnail image data for prohibiting display, copying, and moving of image data and thumbnail image data from the digital camera 10 to an external device, or for enabling only a specific individual user who uses the digital camera 10 to view the display of the image data and thumbnail image data using a password system or the like).

Regarding **claim 14**, Yamasaki et al. teaches a method of concealing image information in a digital camera (paragraph 0067 "protect" and "lock" means adding a display prohibition flag to image data and thumbnail image data for prohibiting display, copying, and moving of image data and thumbnail image data from the digital camera 10 to an external device, or for enabling only a specific individual user who uses the digital camera 10 to view the display of the image data and thumbnail image data using a password system or the like) comprising:

assigning a password for setting image information concealment of the digital camera (paragraph 0067 "protect" and "lock" means adding a display prohibition flag to image data and thumbnail image data for prohibiting display, copying, and moving of image data and thumbnail image data from the digital camera 10 to an external device,

or for enabling only a specific individual user who uses the digital camera 10 to view the display of the image data and thumbnail image data using a password system or the like);

determining whether to conceal image information acquired during photographing of an image using the digital camera (paragraph 0067 "protect" and "lock" means adding a display prohibition flag to image data and thumbnail image data for prohibiting display, copying, and moving of image data and thumbnail image data from the digital camera 10 to an external device, or for enabling only a specific individual user who uses the digital camera 10 to view the display of the image data and thumbnail image data using a password system or the like);

photographing an image (Abstract and paragraphs 0011, 0023, and 0063 *et seq.*; capturing images); digitizing the photographed image (Abstract and paragraphs 0011, 0023, 0052 *et seq.*, and 0063 *et seq.*; digital camera);

assigning the digitized image a concealment file name according to a concealment naming convention that defines a concealment folder,

the concealment naming convention being different from a standard file name convention which defines a current image storage folder (figure 7 and paragraph 0069 and paragraph 0083 *et seq.*), the concealment file name being associated with the password (it is inherent that when the file is stored in the folder "protect" and "lock" means adding a display prohibition flag to image data and thumbnail image data for prohibiting display, copying, and moving of image data and thumbnail image data from the digital camera 10 to an external device, or for enabling only a specific individual user

who uses the digital camera 10 to view the display of the image data and thumbnail image data using a password system or the like the file name is associated with the password);

storing the digitized image with the concealment file name in the concealment folder (figures 8 - 12 and 17 - 24; also, paragraphs 0064 – 0066 and 0067 *et seq.*);

and not displaying the image stored in the concealment folder when the camera is in a reproduction mode (paragraph 0067 "protect" and "lock" means adding a display prohibition flag to image data and thumbnail image data for prohibiting display, copying, and moving of image data and thumbnail image data from the digital camera 10 to an external device, or for enabling only a specific individual user who uses the digital camera 10 to view the display of the image data and thumbnail image data using a password system or the like).

(Note: the method claim does not clearly outline the sequential steps (i.e. first step, second step, etc.) comprised therefor the examiner can take the comprised limitations in any order).

Regarding **claim 15**, as mentioned above in the discussion of claim 14, Yamasaki et al. teaches all of the limitations of the parent claim. Additionally, Yamasaki et al. further teaches if image concealment is not selected before an image is photographed, determining whether to conceal the image, the determination occurring while the image is displayed in the reproduction mode after photographing (paragraph 0067 "protect" and "lock" means adding a display prohibition flag to image data and

thumbnail image data for prohibiting display, copying, and moving of image data and thumbnail image data from the digital camera 10 to an external device, or for enabling only a specific individual user who uses the digital camera 10 to view the display of the image data and thumbnail image data using a password system or the like also figures 8 - 12 and 17 - 24); re-storing the image set to be concealed with a file name according to the concealment naming convention (figures 8 - 12 and 17 - 24; also, paragraphs 0064 – 0066 and 0067 *et seq.* also it is inherent that when the file is stored in the folder "protect" and "lock" means adding a display prohibition flag to image data and thumbnail image data for prohibiting display, copying, and moving of image data and thumbnail image data from the digital camera 10 to an external device, or for enabling only a specific individual user who uses the digital camera 10 to view the display of the image data and thumbnail image data using a password system or the like the file name is associated with the password), the re-storing causing moving of the image set to be concealed to the concealment folder (figures 8 - 12 and 17 - 24; also, paragraphs 0064 – 0066 and 0067 *et seq.* also it is inherent that when the file is stored in the folder "protect" and "lock" means adding a display prohibition flag to image data and thumbnail image data for prohibiting display, copying, and moving of image data and thumbnail image data from the digital camera 10 to an external device, or for enabling only a specific individual user who uses the digital camera 10 to view the display of the image data and thumbnail image data using a password system or the like the file name is associated with the password); and not displaying the image stored in the concealment folder (paragraph 0067 "protect" and "lock" means adding a display prohibition flag to

image data and thumbnail image data for prohibiting display, copying, and moving of image data and thumbnail image data from the digital camera 10 to an external device, or for enabling only a specific individual user who uses the digital camera 10 to view the display of the image data and thumbnail image data using a password system or the like).

Regarding **claim 16**, as mentioned above in the discussion of claim 14, Yamasaki et al. teaches all of the limitations of the parent claim. Additionally, Yamasaki et al. further teaches determining if an option for displaying images stored in the concealment folder has been selected (paragraphs 0145, 0168, and 0188); allowing a password to be input; and if the assigned password matches the input password, displaying the images stored in the concealment folder (paragraph 0067 "protect" and "lock" means adding a display prohibition flag to image data and thumbnail image data for prohibiting display, copying, and moving of image data and thumbnail image data from the digital camera 10 to an external device, or for enabling only a specific individual user who uses the digital camera 10 to view the display of the image data and thumbnail image data using a password system or the like).

Regarding **claim 17**, as mentioned above in the discussion of claim 15, Yamasaki et al. teaches all of the limitations of the parent claim. Additionally, Yamasaki et al. further teaches determining if an option for displaying images stored in the concealment folder has been selected (paragraphs 0145, 0168, and 0188); allowing a

password to be input; and if the assigned password matches the input password, displaying the images stored in the concealment folder (paragraph 0067 "protect" and "lock" means adding a display prohibition flag to image data and thumbnail image data for prohibiting display, copying, and moving of image data and thumbnail image data from the digital camera 10 to an external device, or for enabling only a specific individual user who uses the digital camera 10 to view the display of the image data and thumbnail image data using a password system or the like).

Claims 18 - 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Pavley (US patent No. 6,445,460).

Regarding **claim 18**, Pavley teaches a digital camera (column 5 lines 25 - 45) capable of concealing image information (column 5 lines 25 - 45; a hidden file attribute provides a privacy feature that allows certain image files to be hidden) comprising:

- a main body having a lens portion and a display portion (figures 2A and 2B);

- a shutter installed at one side of the main body (figures 2A and 2B);

- a concealment button installed at one side of the main body, the concealment button having a dedicated function (figures 1, 2A, and 2B) that allows a user to determine whether to set concealment of image information by directly setting an application marker (figure 1 item 404; figure 2A items 412, 414, and 416; and figure 2B items 422, 424 and 420; also figure 7 user sets desired rules) included in an Exif header in an Exif file format (figures 4 and 5; item 1000 included in item 825 of header file 835 in figure 4).

(Note: the method claim does not clearly outline the sequential steps (i.e. first step, second step, etc.) comprised therefor the examiner can take the comprised limitations in any order).

Regarding **claim 19**, as mentioned above in the discussion of claim 18, Pavley teaches all of the limitations of the parent claim. Additionally, Pavley teaches the digital camera of claim 18, further comprising: a password input portion to input a password for concealment setting (column 5 lines 25 – 45; a hidden file attribute provides a privacy feature that allows certain image files to be hidden and requires a password to access the file).

Regarding **claim 20**, Pavley teaches a digital camera (column 5 lines 25 - 45) capable of concealing image information (column 5 lines 25 – 45; a hidden file attribute provides a privacy feature that allows certain image files to be hidden) comprising:

- a main body having a lens portion and a display portion (figures 2A and 2B);

- a shutter installed at one side of the main body (figures 2A and 2B);

- a concealment button installed at one side of the main body, the concealment button having a dedicated function (figures 1, 2A, and 2B) that store an image to be to be captured or a image being displayed on a display screen of the digital camera in a concealment folder in a storage medium (figure 1 item 354 removable memory).

(Note: the method claim does not clearly outline the sequential steps (i.e. first step, second step, etc.) comprised therefor the examiner can take the comprised limitations in any order).

Regarding **claim 21**, as mentioned above in the discussion of claim 20, Pavley teaches all of the limitations of the parent claim. Additionally, Pavley teaches the digital camera of claim 20, further comprising: a password input portion to input a password for concealment setting (figure 1 item 404; figure 2A items 412, 414, and 416; and figure 2B items 422, 424 and 420; also figure 7; also column 5 lines 25 – 45; a hidden file attribute provides a privacy feature that allows certain image files to be hidden and requires a password to access the file).

Regarding **claim 22**, as mentioned above in the discussion of claim 20, Pavley teaches all of the limitations of the parent claim. Additionally, Pavley teaches the digital camera of claim 20, wherein the storage medium is a memory card (figure 1 item 354 removable memory).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4, 7, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamasaki et al. (US PgPub 2003/0011683) in further view of Pavley (US patent No. 6,445,460).

Regarding **claim 4**, Yamasaki et al. teaches most of the limitations of claim 2, However Yamasaki et al. fails to teach a user determines whether to set concealment of image information by directly setting an application marker included in an Exif header in an Exif file format.

Pavley, on the other hand teaches that a user determines whether to set concealment of image information by directly setting an application marker included in an Exif header in an Exif file format.

More specifically, Pavley teaches that a user determines whether to set concealment of image information by directly setting an application marker included in an Exif header in an Exif file format (column 5 lines 25 – 45; and figures 4 and 5 item 1000 included in item 825 of header 835 in figure 4).

One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have been motivated to incorporate the teachings of Pavley with the teachings of Yamasaki et al. because as stated in column 1, lines 37 - 50 Pavley teaches that the invention will make the camera more automatic thereby improving image taking and easing the process of taking images.

Regarding **claim 7**, Yamasaki et al. teaches most of the limitations of claim 1, However Yamasaki et al. fails to teach a user determines whether to set concealment of image information by directly setting an application marker included in an Exif header in an Exif file format.

Pavley, on the other hand teaches that a user determines whether to set concealment of image information by directly setting an application marker included in an Exif header in an Exif file format.

More specifically, Pavley teaches that a user determines whether to set concealment of image information by directly setting an application marker included in an Exif header in an Exif file format (column 5 lines 25 – 45; and figures 4 and 5 item 1000 included in item 825 of header 835 in figure 4.

One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have been motivated to incorporate the teachings of Pavley with the teachings of Yamasaki et al. because as stated in column 1, lines 37 - 50 Pavley teaches that the invention will make the camera more automatic thereby improving image taking and easing the process of taking images.

Regarding **claim 13**, Yamasaki et al. teaches most of the limitations of claim 11, However Yamasaki et al. fails to teach a user determines whether to set concealment of image information by directly setting an application marker included in an Exif header in an Exif file format.

Pavley, on the other hand teaches that a user determines whether to set concealment of image information by directly setting an application marker included in an Exif header in an Exif file format.

More specifically, Pavley teaches that a user determines whether to set concealment of image information by directly setting an application marker included in an Exif header in an Exif file format (column 5 lines 25 – 45; and figures 4 and 5 item 1000 included in item 825 of header 835 in figure 4.

One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have been motivated to incorporate the teachings of Pavley with the teachings of Yamasaki et al. because as stated in column 1, lines 37 - 50 Pavley teaches that the invention will make the camera more automatic thereby improving image taking and easing the process of taking images.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

McIntyre et al. (US patent No. 5,715,487) teaches that a method of concealing images in a camera using a password.

Imura et al. (US patent No. 7,053,936) teaches that a method of locking images in a camera using a password in a special folder.

Kuwayama (US PgPub 2004/0201739) teaches that a method of concealing images in a camera using a password.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Usman Khan whose telephone number is (571) 270-1131. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thru 6:45-4:15; Fri 6:45-3:15 or Alt. Fri off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Ometz can be reached on (571) 272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2622

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

UK

04/03/2008

Patent Examiner

Art Unit 2622

/Tuan V Ho/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2622